DAWN

METRO South

KARACHI Sunday, November 16, 2025

KARACHI

Sunset	**05:45** pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	**06:48** am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	**16°C**
Maximum	**33°C**
Humidity	**37%**
Outlook	**Sunny**

India close in on win over SA after Jadeja heroics

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Trailer runs over, kills pedestrian in Korangi

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Reckless driving claimed life of a young man in Korangi Industrial Area in the small hours of Saturday morning.

According to traffic police, the fatal accident took place near Brooks Chowrangi when the driver of a trailer hit an unidentified pedestrian, aged around 35, when he was crossing the road. He sustained critical injuries and was taken to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival.

The driver responsible for the accident managed to escape, leaving behind the heavy vehicle that was impounded by the police.

The police attributed reckless and negligent driving as the main cause of the accident.

Stray bullet kills man

A motorcyclist was killed when a stray bullet hit him on the Nipa flyover in Gulshan-i-Iqbal late on Friday night, police said on Saturday.

Aziz Bhatti SHO Deedar Ali Abro said that the man, identified as Irfan Ali, 45, was traveling on the bike along with his maternal nephew when a bullet fired from an unknown direction hit him.

He was taken to the JPMC where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival.

Police surgeon Dr Summaiya Syed said the man sustained a bullet wound in the upper torso.

Meanwhile, a woman was gunned down near Janjal Goth off Superhighway on Friday night, police said.

RESCUE operation underway at the fireworks factory in Hyderabad after the blast. —Umair Ali

Six killed, seven hurt in Hyderabad fireworks factory explosion

Search operation in progress to look for people trapped beneath debris; CM Murad orders inquiry

By Mohammad Hussain Khan

HYDERABAD: Six people were killed and seven injured when a powerful explosion ripped through an illegal fireworks factory inside riverine area of Latifabad on Saturday, police, rescue and hospital officials said.

"A powerful explosion was reported in a firecracker factory on the left bank of Indus river inside riverine area within the jurisdiction of B-section police station near Laghari Goth," Hyderabad SSP Adeel Chandio told reporters at the Liaquat University Hospital (LUH).

The sound of the explosion was heard miles away. Residents of nearby localities rushed to the scene and started shifting bodies and injured to the LUH.

Hyderabad Deputy Commissioner Dr Zain Ul Abedin Memon told the media that a fire broke out in the factory immediately after the blast.

A fire and rescue team, ambulance and fire tenders were dispatched to the scene as soon as the information was received.

Rescue 1122 Media Coordinator Zeeshan Jhatial, who was present at the site, told *Dawn* that the roof of the factory fell in a manner that it was being cut with machinery and that the staff were still unsure whether anyone remained trapped beneath the debris.

He said the blaze caused by the blast was extinguished by firefighters, adding that the site was being cleared by Rescue 1122 staff.

'Illegal factory'

Latifabad Assistant Commissioner Saud Lund said that the fireworks were being illegally manufactured in a house without a licence.

However, the Hyderabad SSP said: "Initial findings show that the factory owner [Asad Zai] actually got a licence for some other spot but he was manufacturing fireworks at the present location."

He said that the owner was absconding and details of the factory's licence were being verified

Hyderabad Mayor Kashif Shoro also visited the site of blast and then inquired after the health of injured shifted burns ward and its high dependency unit (HDU).

The injured were identified as Shiraz, son of Sanaullah; Waqas, son of Arshad; his brother Kashif; Anas, son of Akram; Naeem, son of Yusuf' and Mushtaq.

Three of them suffered 98 per cent burns and their condition was said to be critical.

CM orders safety audit

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar took notice of the incident and directed officials to provide the best possible medical care to the injured.

According to a CM House spokesperson, the chief minister ordered authorities to determine the cause of the explosion and conduct a comprehensive audit of the factory's safety measures. "Negligence in safety matters will not be tolerated, and strict action will be taken against those responsible," he said.

Home Minister Lanjar instructed officials to immediately investigate the factory's legal status and verify whether it held the required licence and adhered to safety regulations for manufacturing fireworks.

"Playing with people's lives cannot be allowed. Such incidents are unacceptable," he said.

New route for women-only Pink Bus Service announced

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Senior Sindh Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has announced a new route of the women-only Pink Bus Service.

In a statement issued here on Saturday, he said that the route will become operational on Monday (tomorrow).

The route will run from Abdullah Chowk in Surjani Town to Numaish, and initially the service will operate at three specific timings for women — 8am to 9 am, 1pm to 2 pm, and 5pm to 7 pm.

Mr Memon said the service is exclusively for women, with comfort, safety and improved arrangements given priority.

He noted that women in a big city like Karachi face many challenges during their daily commute, and this initiative will help ease their burden.

He said the Sindh government wants women to go out and pursue their education, employment and personal matters with confidence.

The buses would be fitted with all security features, tracking systems, besides being provided with trained staff, he said, adding that the service would be extended to more areas in due course of time.

He said this move is a meaningful step towards the creation of a safer urban environment for women.

He said the Sindh government will continue to take practical measures in order to enhance facilities for women.

Another three die of dengue

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Three more patients, including two women, died of dengue in the province, raising the total death toll to 36 this year, the Sindh health department said.

It said that a 50-year-old man and an 80-year-old woman passed away in Hyderabad, while a 55-year-old woman died in Karachi.

The health department stated that 180 new dengue patients were admitted to hospitals across the province in the past 24 hours. It said that 113 of them were admitted to public sector hospitals while 57 in private health facilities.

Currently, it said, 241 patients are undergoing treatment at public and private hospitals throughout the province.

In Karachi division, 44 patients were admitted to government hospitals, while 35 patients were admitted in Hyderabad and 34 from other districts.

A total of 5,229 dengue diagnostic tests were conducted in the last 24 hours, of which 774 returned positive.

The department added that 191 patients recovered and were discharged from hospitals during the same period.

Health officials urged citizens to take preventive measures, eliminate mosquito breeding sites and seek immediate medical attention in case of symptoms.

SPELT Conference opens across Karachi with focus on future-ready English language teaching

Tribute paid to educationist Arfa Zehra and journalist Zubeida Mustafa at teaching conference

KARACHI: The 41st Society of Pakistan English Language Teachers (SPELT) International Conference 2025, under the theme 'Future-Ready ELT: Innovation, Diversity and Sustainability', opened simultaneously at various venues in the metropolis on Saturday morning.

This year's theme invites teachers to reflect deeply on the transformative potential of English Language Teaching (ELT) practices that embrace innovation, honour diversity while committing to sustainable growth.

Now in its 41st year, SPELT has navigated over a focused vision of empowering teachers, students, educators and academics with the tools of training, learning and professional development, particularly in the field of ELT.

There will be discussions and presentations about integrating multilingual learning and artificial intelligence (AI) in teacher training.

The opening ceremony of the conference at DHA Suffa University saw a befitting tribute to the renowned scholar and educationist Dr Arfa Sayeda Zehra, who passed away a few days ago, by Prof Abbas Husain.

A professor, public speaker and advocate of Urdu language and ethics in education, Dr Zehra believed that true learning must nurture both the mind and the soul.

Meanwhile, at another venue, the late senior journalist Zubeida Mustafa was remembered for her lifelong advocacy for education, literacy, women's rights, social equity, health and environment.

Earlier, while providing an overview of the conference, SPELT's President Mohsin Tejani said that the conference has been spread over multiple venues this year with a kaleidoscope of topics. While they will be looking at the 'Innovation of ELT: Navigating Digital and Technological Shifts at the DHA Suffa University, the Happy Home School System in PECHS will be concentrating on the 'Future of Language Learning and Assessment: Path Forward'.

Meanwhile, the IU School System will be delving into 'Teacher Development and Professional Learning in a Changing ELT Landscape' and at Government Elementary College of Education (GECE), Hussainabad they will be looking at 'Inclusive and Equitable ELT in Multilingual Pakistan'.

"As technology reshapes the educational landscape, our work, too, increases as we also move with the times," said Mr Tejani, while looking forward to inspiring, intellectual sessions over the two days of the conference.

The first plenary address at DHA Suffa University by Conan Kmiecik, who is the course lead for business English and an English lecturer at Qatar University in Doha, was about 'Innovating ELT with Everyday Tools: Google Keep, Canva and FlowCV'.

The talk was based on how digital tools can transform the way teachers and students learn, teach and prepare for the future.

The session explored the potential of these tools to enhance English language teaching in three dimensions such as student learning, classroom practice and teacher development.

The morning plenary address by Associate Professor at Universitas Tanjungpura, Indonesia, Dr Iksanudin at HHS School System was about 'Evaluating ELT Materials Effectively: A Teacher's Guide to Volley Time'.

The first plenary at the IU School System by teacher trainer Sylvie Dolakova from the Czech Republic was about 'The Power of Movement in Language Teaching'.

At GECE, the morning plenary address was about 'Specific Learning Difficulties and Inclusive Teaching in the AI Era' by Prof Bimali Indrarathne, a professor in English Language at the Kotelawala Defence University in Sri Lanka.

The entire first day of the conference included interesting workshops, talks and discussions and sessions about teaching and learning.

The SPELT Conference concludes on Sunday with all the sessions to be held at Habib University. —By Shazia Hasan

Students flock to 21st *Dawn* Education Expo for career guidance

• Two-day event brings together over 80 universities under one roof • Attendees explore scholarships, study-abroad options • Workshops, panel discussions and interactive sessions provide practical learning and counselling for aspiring students

By Shazia Hasan

KARACHI: Standees beckoning students to study abroad or go for this or that course lined the long entrance to the marquee at Pearl-Continental Hotel where the two-day 21st *Dawn* Education Expo opened on Saturday.

The *Dawn E*ducation Expo brought together over 80 universities and colleges under a single roof. These included mainstream higher education institutes from North America and the United Kingdom as well as emergent ones from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Malaysia, New Zealand, Northern Cyprus, Pakistan, Russia, Switzerland, Turkiye and the UAE.

Students with dreams of a bright future found the various expo stalls offering free career counselling, details about international and local scholarships, along with guidance on student visas and admissions, just what they were looking for. None of them were empty-handed as all were carrying a bunch of flyers and booklets in neat little goody bags. Most had come with friends or parents.

Two students of intermediate science group, Saeed Mumtaz and Shaukat Ali, were looking for studying abroad options, which also made them inquire about scholarships.

"We want to study abroad, so this is a good opportunity to find out about scholarships to which we can apply," Ali told *Dawn*.

There were also cousins Ramis Fawad, Arhan and Ziad Jawad with one kid's mother Qudsia Munir, who was also aunt to the latter two boys, all interested in studying in Germany.

"I have myself studied locally, at IBA actually, but I want my son and nephews to explore foreign options. They are all around the same age so ideally I would prefer for them to apply to the same universities in the same country," said the mother.

Savera Aslam, at the Striveny consultancy stall, said that most students were inclined towards Germany, Italy or Turkiye. "But if you ask me, they must also consider Malaysia because with universities in Malaysia you don't need English proficiency exam scores while visa requirements don't include bank statements," she smiled.

She said that, besides being an education consultancy, they also offer a portal-based system which can help streamline things, such as searching for suitable programmes for

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STUDENTS gather information about learning and career opportunities at a stall. —Fahim Siddiqi / White Star